

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 14-16 are pending in the present application. Of the pending claims, claims 6-8 and 14-16 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

The objection to the disclosure is noted. In response, all of the amendments suggested by the Examiner have been made to the specification. In addition, further amendments to the specification have been made to correct the idiomatic usage of English. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The objection to the drawings is noted. In response, Applicants have made amendments to the specification to eliminate the need for any amendments to the drawings. Specifically, the listing of capacitors Cs1 and Cs2 in the description of Figs. 5-9, 11 and 12, has been deleted from the specification.

In addition, Applicants have amended the paragraph at page 32, line 9, so as to correct the inadvertent typographical error of referencing FIG. 13. Specifically, the portion of the paragraph that references surface 12c has been amended to direct the reader to FIG. 12. FIG. 12 is clearly the correct figure reference because FIG. 13 is a cross-section of Fig. 12 taken along line XIII-XIII and reference label 12c corresponds to the upper face of the dielectric block 12. Since FIG. 13 is a cross-section, no upper face is included in FIG. 13, and the upper face 12c cannot be labeled.

In view of the amendments to the specification, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Walker et al. Claims 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. in view of Yorita (JP '002). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Initially, Applicants would like to point out that the Examiner's comments made on page 3 of the Office Action that the changes made to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) do not apply to the examination of this application are incorrect. The present application was filed in the United States on January 17, 2001 and thus, the changes made to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by the American Inventor's Protection Act of 1999 apply to the examination of this application.

Turning now to the prior art rejections, Applicants wish to point out that the Examiner has incorrectly classified Walker et al. as a §102(b) reference. Walker et al. was filed in the United States on December 11, 2000 and issued on May 27, 2003. Since the present application was filed in the United States on January 17, 2001, Walker et al. is properly classified as a §102(e) reference against the present application.

The present application claims priority to Japanese Application No. 2000-009414, filed January 18, 2000 and Japanese Application No. 2000-251412, filed August 22, 2000. To perfect Applicants' priority claim, Applicants submit herewith verified English translations of these priority Japanese applications.

Therefore, Walker et al. cannot be used as a reference in rejecting the presently pending claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 9 patentably distinguish over the art of record, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is generic to all claimed embodiments. Thus, it is respectfully requested that previously withdrawn

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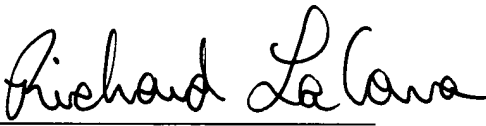
dependent claims 6-8 and 14-16 be considered and allowed along with independent claim 1 based on their dependency therefrom.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been carefully reviewed. It is believed that this reference, either alone or combined with any other references of record, do not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to the specification, and allowance of the present application with claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 14-16 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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